Please cancel claims 1 to 9 without prejudice and add the following new claims 10 to 28:

10. An apparatus for effecting separation of liquid from solids or solids from liquids, comprising:

a frame;

a pair of first and second spaced rollers supported by said frame, and a third roller supported by said frame and spaced between said pair of rollers;

at least one endless belt supported by said pair of rollers and extending around said pair of rollers and below said third roller;

folding means between said pair of rollers supported by said frame to fold said belt upon itself about a middle part as it moves between said first and said second spaced rollers;

whereby edges of said belt are brought together to form a cavity between inner sides of said belt when folded by said folding means.

11. The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein said pair of rollers

are substantially parallel to each other and lie in a horizontal plane, and said third roller is positioned below said horizontal plane to enable said belt to extend substantially horizontally around said pair of rollers.

12. The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, including

at least two spaced rollers having an axial orientation substantially orthogonal to axial orientation of said first and said second pair of rollers whereby to change said belt from a horizontal orientation into a vertical orientation or substantially an upright orientation.

13. The apparatus as claimed in claim 12, including

a compression zone between one of said pair of rollers and said folding means, said compression zone including two spaced walls formed from a horizontally-extending upward face of said belt when said belt is changed to a vertical orientation for defining a cavity.

14. The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, said frame further including guides guiding said belt into a folded position.

15. The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein said belt is

constructed at least in part of a porous or permeable material.

16. The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the belt is a filter belt and has a middle portion which extends lengthwise along the belt which is more pliable than a remainder of the belt to extending from said middle portion facilitate to a folding of the belt about this portion.

17. The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein said folding means folds the belt to bring respective sides of the belt together to effect a nipping pressure area of one side against the other side to thereby apply pressure to material between said respective surfaces of the sides of said belt brought together as the material is progressively caught therebetween.

18. The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, where the belt is a filter belt and has a middle portion which extends lengthwise along the belt and side portions, and the middle portions is more pliable than the side portions forming a remainder of the belt to facilitate a folding of the belt about this portion.

19. The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein said folding means includes a nipping zone comprising a plurality of rollers substantially vertically aligned.

20. The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein said folding means cooperate with said second of said pair of rollers to form an unfolding zone to unfold said belt.

21. The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, including a scraper at end of an unfolding zone for removing compressed solids.

22. A method for effecting separation of liquid from solids or solids from liquid comprising the steps of:

supporting at least one belt held by and between a pair of spaced rollers provided with drive means for progressing the at least one belt from a collection zone through a compression zone;

positioning the at least one belt between the compression zone and the collection zone and causing the shape of the at least one belt to be changed in shape from an upstream position to a downstream position, to

provide thereby a supporting shape to hold liquid, one part of which shape is defined at a downstream location by a coming together of facing surfaces of said at least one belt.

23. The method as defined in claim 22, including supporting the at least one belt to cause said at least one belt to change its shape as it progresses through the collection zone from an approximately planar shape to one where the belt is folded to have the previously upper surface on one side of the belt being pushed together with the previously upper surface on an opposite side of the belt.

24. The method as claimed in claim 22, including the steps of:

supporting the at least one belt to cause a change in shape as it progresses through the collection zone from an approximately planar shape;

supporting the belt or belts so as to provide a substantially horizontal alignment of its uppermost surface when viewed in a lateral direction to one where the belt is folded to have the previously upper surface on one side of

the belt being pushed together with the previously upper surface on an opposite side of the belt so that the respective upper surfaces of the sides are as the at least one belt is aligned to be approximately vertical as the at least one belt is conveyed from the collection zone to the compression zone to form a nipping alignment or location and where the uppermost sides of the at least one belt at the nipping location is at a height that is substantially the same or lower than the upper surface at commencement location of the collection zone.

25. The method as claimed in claim 22, including:

supporting the belt to cause its shape to change as it progresses through the collection zone from an approximately planar shape which is supported so as to provide a substantially horizontal alignment of its uppermost surface when viewed in a lateral direction to one where the belt is folded to have the previously upper surface on one side of the belt being pushed together with the previously upper surface on an opposite side of the belt so that the respective upper surfaces of the sides are

aligned to be approximately vertical at the nipping location and are at a height that is a similar or lower height than the upper surface at commencement location of the collection zone.

26. A method for effecting separation of liquids from solids or solids from liquids comprising the steps of:

providing at least one endless belt movable from a collection zone to a compression zone and from the compression zone to a cleaning zone;

passing the belt from a first station to support the belt in a substantially horizontal position to a second station for folding the belt and causing the belt to move into a substantially vertical position and reconverting the belt from its vertical position into a horizontal position at a third station position, the vertical position being substantially orthogonal to the horizontal position where the upper surface of the belt in the horizontal position is folded upon itself with said upper surface forming face to face inner surfaces of the belt to change the belt from a receiving zone to a compression zone as the belt is moved to its vertical position; and

passing the belt from the second station to the third station to support the belt at the third station in a substantially horizontal position.

27. The method as claimed in claim 26, including:

applying a pressure deliquifying at a compression zone formed at the second station by means of which solids from a loaded slurry are progressively compressed to cause the solids to be deliquified;

forming a collection or supporting shape to hold the liquid slurry between the first and second stations such that the belt upper surface will progress substantially downwardly into the compression zone and to keep the slurry within confines of the belt as it is folded upon itself; and

folding the belt with the top surface upon itself to form a substantially flat face to face surface at the second station to form a nipping location.

28. The method as claimed in claim 26, including:

supporting the belt with guides when progressing from an unfolded position at the first station to a folded position at the second station and progressing to an unfolded position at the third station; and

adjusting the tension of the belt at said second station to assist in the tracking of the belt.